

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
JUNE 19, 2018**

**ITEM 5**

**SUBJECT**

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE ORAL COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE POLICY FOR WATER QUALITY CONTROL FOR RECYCLED WATER.

**DISCUSSION**

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff propose to amend the Policy for Water Quality Control for Recycled Water (Recycled Water Policy) to provide statewide consistency for permit requirements for recycled water projects and to promote production and use of recycled water in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment. The proposed amendment to the Recycled Water Policy removes statewide recycled water mandates, includes reporting requirements for recycled water production and use, revises provisions for salt and nutrient management plans, includes streamlined permitting criteria to aid in the antidegradation analysis of some non-potable recycled water projects, revises monitoring requirements for constituents of emerging concern (CECs) in recycled water used for groundwater recharge and reservoir water augmentation, and incorporates other substantive and non-substantive changes.

The Recycled Water Policy was adopted by the State Water Board on February 3, 2009. The Recycled Water Policy was amended on January 22, 2013 to provide direction to the regional water quality control boards (regional water boards) on monitoring requirements for CECs in recycled water used for groundwater recharge. The Recycled Water Policy includes provisions that require staff to reconvene a science advisory panel every five years to provide guidance on future actions related to CECs in recycled water. Since the Recycled Water Policy was last updated in 2013, there have been significant advancements in recycled water regulations and research, including regulations for reservoir water augmentation (surface water augmentation), [Order WQ 2016-0068-DDW](#), Water Reclamation Requirements for Recycled Water Use, which covers non-potable uses of recycled water, and ongoing research on CECs in recycled water. The Recycled Water Policy also encourages the development of salt and nutrient management plans for each basin or sub-basin in California.

[Resolution No. 2016-0061](#) directed staff to reconvene a Science Advisory Panel on CECs in recycled water (Panel) and to propose an amendment to the Recycled Water Policy considering feedback received from stakeholder outreach, the findings of the Panel, and an evaluation of the challenges and benefits of salt and nutrient management plan development.

The Panel held public meetings on July 19, July 21, and December 15, 2017, and released a draft report for a 30-day public comment period on January 31, 2018. The Panel considered the public comments and released the final report on April 27, 2018. The State Water Board held early public consultation meetings pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act on December 1, 2017 in Sacramento and December 5, 2017 in San Diego. The State Water Board also held public stakeholder workshops on January 4, 2018 in Sacramento and January 11, 2018 in Fountain Valley. State Water Board staff considered feedback from these public meetings as well as recommendations from the Panel and released the proposed

amendment to the Recycled Water Policy on May 9, 2018 for public comment. Staff will prepare written responses to oral comments received during this public hearing and may revise the proposed amendment and draft staff report with substitute environmental documentation prior to proposing the amendment to the State Water Board for adoption consideration.

#### **POLICY ISSUE**

None at this time; no final action will be taken. Final action of the State Water Board will be scheduled for a subsequent date.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

None at this time; no final action will be taken. Final action of the State Water Board will be scheduled for a subsequent date.

#### **REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None at this time; no final action will be taken. Final action of the State Water Board will be scheduled for a subsequent date.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

None at this time; no final action will be taken. Final action of the State Water Board will be scheduled for a subsequent date.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal(s) 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012. In particular, approval of this item will assist in fulfilling Objective 3.2 to increase the acceptance and promote the use of recycled water and the reuse of stormwater as locally available, sustainable water supplies consistent with the Climate Change Draft Scoping Plan developed pursuant to the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) and other relevant State and regional efforts.
--